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HALL, MYERS, VANDE SANDE & PEQUIGNOT, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

10220 RIVER ROAD, SUITE 200

POTOMAC, MARYLAND 20854

TELEPHONE: (301) 983-2500

FACSIMILE: (301) 983-2100

GEOFFREY R. MYERS
THOMAS J. VANDE SANDE
MATTHEW A. PEQUIGNOT
DENNIS A. POSTER

Patent, Trademark
and Copyright Law
and Litigation

OF COUNSEL
WILLIAM D. HALL

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TO: Examiner David J. Parsley; Art Unit No. 3643 **DEC 15 2004**

FIRM: U.S. Patent Office

FAX/SPEED NUMBER: (703) 872-9306

FROM: Geoffrey R. Myers, Esquire

RE: USSN 10/647,211 for Conaway

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 (includes cover sheet)

OPERATOR: Karen Ng

DATE: 12/15/04 TIME: 1:54

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MESSAGE:

For use as a discussion point at the 2:00 interview, is a new suggested independent claim,
which follows your kind suggestions in your fax of December 14, 2004.

Geoffrey R. Myers

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(Suggested Claim) De-feathering apparatus comprising:

a plurality of elongating picking elements comprising structures selected from the group consisting of: filaments, fibers, bristles, wires, and substantially rigid threads, said elements consist essentially of a material which has a mass per unit length which is substantially less than rubber;

said picking elements have first and second ends, said first ends being affixed to at least a first rotatable unit connected to a motor driven system for causing rotation of said rotatable unit and which is functionally installed on a motorized picking apparatus comprising:

a first bank of rotatable units having a plurality of said picking elements affixed thereon; and

a second bank of rotatable units having a plurality of said picking elements affixed thereon, said second bank of rotatable units located so as to be spaced apart from and substantially opposite said first bank of rotatable units such that said first and said second banks of rotatable units define a space therebetween for passage of a line of poultry therethrough.